Distribution of poor quality rice to State

5047. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) why Food Corporation of India (FCI) is procuring and distributing poor quality of rice through PDS by relaxing the technical specification of rice;

(b) how much rice has been delivered to various States during financial year 1997-98, State-wise;

(c) how much rice has been delivered by FCI to the States under relaxed specification during 1997-98 and 1998- 99, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) whether Government have received any complaints from the Government of Tripura regarding supply of poor quality of rice during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) FCI procures foodgrains conforming to the specifications laid down by the Government. Good quality foodgrains, conforming to PFA standards and free from insect infestation are being issued by FCI and TPDS. Relaxations in rice specifications were given during 1997-98 and 1998-99 to mitigate the hardship of farmers when the paddy crop was severely affected by unseasonal rains.

(b) The information is given in statement *{See* below)

(c) A total quantity of 90.28 lakh MTs and 35.01 lakh MTs of rice procured during year 1997-98 and 1998-99 under relaxed specification have been issued under TPDS and other welfare schemes to the various States.

(d) Yes, Sir, Necessary instructions have been issued to FCI to ensure the supply of only good quality rice to Tripura.

Statement

Allotment of rice under TPDS and other schemes to the state Governments and offtake during 1997-88

(Figs. In "000 tonnes)

Zone	State / UT	Allotment*	Offtake
North	Haryana	5.0	4.1
	Himachal Pradesh	127.9	90.1
	J&K	430.9	280.9
	Punjab	13.0	1.7
	Rajasthan	56.5	4.4
	Uttar Pradesh	561.6	321.1
	Chandigarh	3.0	2.2
	Delhi	174.4	100.4
South	Andhra Pradesh	2352.9	1999.9
	Karnataka	1024.6	833.9
	Kerala	1828.1	1607.3
	Tamilnadu	1359.4	1262.8
	A&N Islands	30.0	0.2
	Lakshadweep	11.1	3.0
	Pondicherry	18.8	0.0
East	Bihar	510.0	156.3
	Orissa	715.0	560.1
	Sikkim	77.3	54.1
	West Bengal	537.0	318.3
NE	Assam	590.9	456.5
	Arunachal	108.0	91.2
	Manipur	101.4	45.1
	Meghalaya	197.4	152.9
	Mizoram	116.0	95.1
	Nagaland	109.0	92.2
	Tripura	167.1	153.6
West	Goa	75.0	51.8
	Gujarat	308.0	178.8
	Maharashtra	679.0	552.3
	Madhya Pradesh	464.0	293.1
	D&N Haveli	5.2	4.0
	Daman & Diu	4.2	2.0
	TOTAL	12761.7	9769.4

*ForAPL + BPL + Additional..